



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District

# Celilo Village

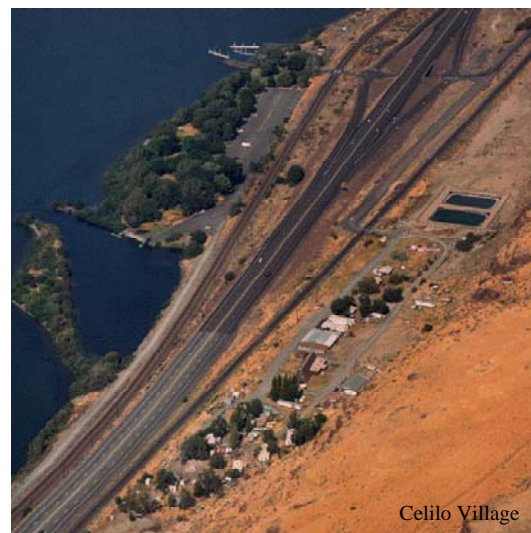
## Redevelopment Newsletter

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August

### Redevelopment history

For millennia, the Celilo area has served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. Celilo Village, itself, currently supports 13 dwellings and about 50 people, but inadequate sanitary and water systems have caused public health and safety problems that concern federal, tribal, state and local health officials. To resolve these problems, the tribes formally requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites (CRTFAS) Project. Celilo Village Redevelopment was authorized by Pres. George W. Bush on March 2, 2004, as part of Public Law 108-204, provides for the reconstruction of the village and associated structures and systems, repairs to the longhouse, and operation and maintenance of the rebuilt village. The Corps continues to work with the tribes, agencies, residents and other stakeholders to make redevelopment a reality.



### Second edition of Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

This is the second issue of a monthly newsletter created to keep interested stakeholders informed of the Celilo Village Redevelopment Project's progress. The Corps is scheduling and facilitating monthly meetings with the reconstituted Wyam Board. Discussion topics from these meetings will be outlined in the newsletter. This issue covers topics discussed during the meeting that was held on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the Columbia River Gorge Discovery Center.

### Design/Build Contract for Longhouse

Scott Chun, the Corps' architect and technical lead, discussed the status of plans for the design/build contract for the longhouse and for drilling the new water well. During a July site visit at Celilo Village, several residents encouraged the Corps to proceed with longhouse repairs immediately to demonstrate progress to village elders. In response to this request, the Corps accelerated the timeline for making repairs to the longhouse in advance of other village construction. Drawings detailing the intended repairs are included with this newsletter. The existing longhouse, a distinctive extended tepee, pole, plank and shingle structure is the focal point of the village and is used frequently by the community as a gathering place for a variety of functions: traditional feasts, dances, and ceremonies, as well as weddings, wakes, and parties. This would be renovated to provide health and safety features as well as enhancement to the structural integrity, lighting, electrical capacity, heating system, and general improvement and repair of the interior and exterior. The existing kitchen would be replaced with a new kitchen built with modern equipment, utilities, and restroom. The Corps' current plan is to finish all longhouse repairs in time for the 2005 Spring Salmon Feast.

## New Water Well Drilling

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A crucial step in the redevelopment process is the drilling of a new, deep well for providing clean water. Mr. Patrick Craney of Indian Health Services strongly urged the Corps to drill the well early in the redevelopment process, rather than waiting till actual reconstruction work at the village. Mr. David Schofield, a Corps geotechnical engineer, reviewed Oregon Department of Environmental Quality criteria for community water supplies, and determined that the best location for the new well would be in the area of the village between the original and the 1955 housing, near the foot of the bluff. The drilling of the new well will likely take approximately two months, and would begin in late September/early October, 2004. The Corps will take all necessary precautions, including placing noise buffering structures and drilling during specific parts of the day, to reduce the disruption to the village caused by drilling activities.

## Residency Status

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Mr. George Miller, the Corps project manager, discussed Celilo Village Resident Status. The presentation detailed the Corps' understanding of facts, both historical and current, regarding each of the houses at the village. These "facts" reflect information the Corps, BIA, and tribes possess. It is important to note that this understanding of the facts is subject to change, and anyone with information regarding village resident status that is contrary to the presentation is encouraged to provide it to Mr. Stanley Speaks, the Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (911 NE 11<sup>th</sup>, Portland, OR 97232). Mr. Miller also briefly discussed the general relocation rights and benefits available to residents. Please contact Mr. Jeremy Weber at (503-808-4735, [jeremy.j.weber@usace.army.mil](mailto:jeremy.j.weber@usace.army.mil)) if you would like to receive a copy of the presentation on residency status and relocation rights and benefits.

## Municipal Code Development

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The Corps has hired *Berryman & Henigar*, a Seattle firm with experience working with Native American tribes and specialized expertise in developing rural residential codes, to aid in creating a Celilo Village Municipal Code and resource handbook. Roger Wagoner, the project manager for *Berryman & Henigar* said that the code is envisioned as a combination "manual" and "rule-book" that will provide direction and guidance for facility managers and the community and have provisions for Village administration, housing and community facilities management, and utilities and common areas maintenance. Additionally, an appendix to the code will provide information on resources available to village residents.

## Upcoming activities

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- **Thursday, August 26th.** The next scheduled Wyam Board meeting will be held in the classroom at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058 from 10a.m. to noon. The meeting will update Corps progress on the design/build contract for the longhouse, new water well drilling, cultural resources compliance, and municipal code development.
- **August 26<sup>th</sup>-27th.** Resident interviews regarding Celilo Village Municipal Code needs. There will be two sessions on the 26<sup>th</sup>, one from 2-4pm and one from 6-8pm. There will be a morning session on the 27<sup>th</sup>, from 8-10am. Interviews will be held at the BIA office at Celilo Village.
- **September 2004.** Tribal and agency interviews regarding Celilo Village Municipal Code needs.

- **September 8<sup>th</sup>.** Wyam Board Swearing-In Ceremony, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, at 10am.

The Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is designed to provide information about Celilo Village Redevelopment. It is published monthly by the Celilo Village Redevelopment Project Delivery Team of the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. For information about this project, please contact George Miller at (503) 808-4704 or by email at [george.j.miller@usace.army.mil](mailto:george.j.miller@usace.army.mil). For more information about this newsletter, please contact Jeremy Weber at (503) 808-4735 or by email at [jeremy.j.weber@usace.army.mil](mailto:jeremy.j.weber@usace.army.mil).

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